

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9203

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2476

NO FOREIGN DISSEM

JOINT STATE/DAO MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MMOL, PFOR, TW, US

SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 084958 (DTG 081815Z APR 76 NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY AND DAO OFFICERS VISITED THE MILITARY PRODUCTS EXHIBITION WHICH OPENED IN TAIPEI APRIL 14. THE EXHIBIT WAS PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMMERCIAL MANUFACTURERS TO PRODUCE A VARIETY OF COMPONENT AND SPARE PARTS REQUIRED BY THE CHINESE ARMED FORCES. SECONDARILY, IT SERVED AS A VEHICLE TO DISPLAY A NUMBER OF GENERAL PURPOSE ITEMS MANUFACTURED BY GROUPOID MILITARY PRODUCTION FACILITIES THAT COULD BE PRODUCED IN LIMITED QUANTITIES FOR COMMERCIAL SALE.

2. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (OVER 95 PCT) OF THE ITEMS DISPLAYED WERE OF U.S. MANUFACTURE, AND REPRESENTED THOSE ITEMS THAT THE ARMED FORCES DESIRED TO HAVE PRODUCED COMMERCIAL IN TAIWAN. IN MANY INSTANCES, ITEMS SIMILAR TO THOSE DISPLAYED ARE MANUFACTURED HERE. HOWEVER, THE LOCALLY-PRODUCED COMPONENTS ARE EITHER NOT COMPATIBLE WITH MILITARY SYSTEMS OR DO NOT MEET MILITARY SPECIFICATIONS. THESE ITEMS INCLUDE A LARGE VARIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

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PARTS, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, AND

VARIOUS FABRICS (FOR SPECIAL PURPOSE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT AND PARACHUTES). IN A NUMBER OF CASES MILITARY BRIEFERS AT THE EXHIBITION ADMITTED THAT TECHNOLOGICAL SHORTCOMINGS WOULD PROBABLY PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF LOCAL MANUFACTURE OF CERTAIN ITEMS IN THE NEAR TERM; THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE FIELD OF METALLURGY.

3. ONLY 80-ODD OF THE WELL OVER 1,000 ITEMS DISPLAYED WERE LOCALLY MANUFACTURED. THESE GENERALLY LOW TECHNOLOGY ITEMS WERE MANUFACTURED BY ROC MILITARY ARSENALS AND OTHER PRODUCTION FACILITIES WHICH HAVE EXCESS PRODUCTION CAPACITY. PREDOMINANT AMONG THESE PRODUCTS WERE HAND TOOLS, SEVERAL TYPES OF MACHINE TOOLS AND DIES, AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF SMALL, ASSORTED AIRCRAFT RELATED PARTS PRODUCED INCIDENT TO THE F-5E CO-PRODUCTION PROGRAM. THE ARMY LOGISTICS COMMAND IS ALSO PROMOTING COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION OF ITS MILITARY VEHICLE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT REBUILD FACILITIES WHICH, WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE U.S. ARMY'S TAIWAN MATERIAL AGENCY REBUILD PROGRAM LAST YEAR, ARE NOW BEING UTILIZED ONLY ON A LIMITED BASIS.

4. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MILITARY PRODUCED ITEMS FOR POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL SALE, ONLY COMPONENT PARTS WERE EXHIBITED; NO END ITEMS WERE DISPLAYED. THE ONLY WEAPONS RELATED MATERIALS SEEN WERE ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS AND WIRE FOR MISSILES (NO MISSILES WERE DISPLAYED, BUT THERE WERE MODELS AND ARTISTS REPRODUCTIONS OF THE U.S. HERCULES AND HAWK AIR DEFENSE MISSILES), BREECHES FOR 105MM AND 155MM HOWITZERS, AND PORTABLE FLAME THROWER COMPONENTS. ALL OF THESE WERE DISPLAYED AS REPRESENTING ITEMS THAT THE ARMED FORCES DESIRED TO HAVE MANUFACTURED IN TAIWAN.

5. A SEPARATE MORE DETAILED REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED BY THE DAO THROUGH DOD CHANNELS.

6. POPPLE/LEVIN LETTER OF APRIL 9, 1976 IN PARA 2 ADDRESSES BROADER QUESTION OF ROC MILITARY PRODUCTION CAPABILITY. UNGER

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